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PENKOVSKIY PAPERS

JOHN DOWNS: "You are looking at a picture of a man named Oleg Penkovskiy, who in the spring of 1963 was sentenced in a Moscow court, in a treason trial, and shot. This man Penkovskiy in a book that is coming out this week is alleged to have written a journal of his activities which are now published by Doubleday. It's called 'The Penkovskiy Papers', and the reason that is said here, according to the publisher, that Penkovskiy was shot for treason was because he supplied information to the West that was a key factor in our ability to face Khrushchev in the 1961 Berlin crisis, at the time of the wall, and also in the withdrawal of Cuban missiles, where President Kennedy was able to force the Soviets to withdraw the missiles that had been set up in Cuba. If so, this makes Penkovskiy an extremely important figure, in not only the world of espionage but in the world in general. Here, at the invitation of the publishers, is Greville Wynne, who is a British subject, and our guest this morning, and he was Penkovskiy's connection with the West.

"Mr. Wynne, welcome to Today, and I want to ask you, first off, you call yourself a business man. Others call you a spy. You were sentenced by Soviet secret police, or arrested by them and sentenced to eight years in jail as a spy. What are you?"

WYNNE: "Well, that's quite a question, this one, certainly I became involved in important spy maneuvers taking place in the history of our two countries, and for this I was sentenced to eight years by a Russian court. You mentioned a moment ago the importance of Penkovskiy. He was very important, most important. Just see how important the Russians considered him. It is no secret now that nearly 400 agents that had been operating in your country and mine and other parts of the free world were recalled to the Soviet Union. Marshals of the Army were dismissed. Seroff, the chief of the Kageboro(?), that's the KGB, the secret police, was demoted. He hasn't been heard of recently. It shows how important the Russians view it. Apart from that, generals of the Army have been dismissed, and people in civilian jobs in high places, who have anything to do with Penkovskiy, some have disappeared, others have been demoted."

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"This is how important Penkovskiy was to the Russians."

TOWNS: "You were very familiar with Penkovskiy. Did he discuss at any time the writing of the journal that he was keeping in addition to the espionage activities in his written reports?"

WYNNE: "No, Penkovskiy never said to me that he was writing his diary. He betrayed from time to time that he had much writing to do, but he never told me he was writing his diaries. In fact, when I was over in your country in July of this year, I was questioned on this point extensively by the CIA representatives, and indeed my own British intelligence, asking me where in fact I had brought back these diaries, and I noted that some commentary from some of your writers in the press, without any knowledge, because no official statement has been given to them, they are giving their own interpretations suggesting that this is put out by the CIA. This is nonsense. This is Penkovskiy's way of making sure that some of the information, some of the details, how he felt his government operated, and the plans at that time to make war with your country and mine, make no mistake about it, that this man saved us from war. It was Oleg's way of making sure that people would hear something about the details, and he all the time used to say to me, Greville, when you go back you have seen conditions. You know a lot. Tell your friends. Tell everybody. If Penkovskiy had given me those diaries, I would have handed them over to my colleagues, and maybe they would have been shelved."

TOWNS: "Were you aware of how these papers got to the West?"

WYNNE: "Yes, I am. You see..."

TOWNS: "Can you tell?"

WYNNE: "Yes, it's not secret. Penkovskiy had other contacts other than me. I mean after all, the very fact that he was chief of the scientific committee, it was his job to meet foreigners, and very highly trusted officials. Penkovskiy, in the eyes of the Soviet people, after all, he was a colonel in the regular army. He was a deputy chief of the scientific committee, and above all, he was a senior officer in the intelligence service, and so, he was very important, and he got these through by some contacts of his, and meeting many foreign delegations to Larry Evan (?), the man that had defected from Vienna during four power control of Austria, and Larry Evan is now in your country operating somewhere and Larry Evan and Penkovskiy knew one another.

"When Evan(?) had these diaries, he contacted Frank Givney who had written Larry Evan's life story, and translated, and that's really how they got over here."

TOWNS: "And they were brought over prior to his sentencing?"

WYNNE: "Oh, yes, yes."

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DOANS: "Why did he keep the papers in his apartment? Could he not fear, particularly toward the last when he knew he was under surveillance? Had he abandoned hope then? Did he think that they would not come and search his apartment?"

WYNNE: "Well, he -- whether it came out in bits and pieces, I don't know, but he certainly got them out before his arrest, and when you say keeping them in his apartment, just remember that even in the trial it came out that he had secret drawers; he had code books; ratings which I have taken over. He had all sorts of things in his apartment, so that the fact he had the diaries is no surprise to me."

DOANS: "Tell me, Mr. Wynne, why, what was involved here, that a man that highly placed in his country should, could, turn around, over a long period of time, serve the opposition. Was money involved in this?"

WYNNE: "No, certainly. Alex never received any money. He had the opportunity of staying in the West. He had the opportunity of staying in your country or mine on three occasions. He came to England twice, to France once. No, you see, Alex, (I called him Alex, actually his name is Oleg), Alex had every opportunity for staying here, and leading quite a comfortable life, but this was a unique person. You see, from his early days he was brought up under the Communist society. His father, incidentally, his father was an officer in the White Army, but he died when Alex was about two and a half years old, and Alex was brought up by an aged mother, and he entered the young Communist ranks. He then went into the senior Communist Party. He then worked his way up. You know, he was quite a brainy chap. After all he was full colonel before the age of thirty. He has seen three major wars, the Japanese-Russian War, the Finnish-Russian War, and the last war. After serving, he got some of the highest decorations that could be placed upon a military man."

DOANS: "What gave him sympathy with the West?"

WYNNE: "Well, you see, I'm trying to be brief in this short interview, but it's a long story. Having reached this high position he was serving his country in the Soviet way, extremely well, but then things happened. He became here -- you'd call him a marshal. Certain things happened which the papers will bring out quite well. He got on extremely friendly terms. Then he did staff course, and he went into the military secret service. He did very well there. He became on friendly terms himself, in Penkovskiy and Vera his wife used to go to Seroff's house, was on Christian name terms. I mentioned Vera. She was his wife. She was also another reason why Penskovskiy came along. She was a general's daughter, a very important general, and because of these things, Penkovskiy had entrance into the so-called elite society of the Soviet Union. He was able to see the type of planning and the type of program they had for the rest of the world, and he became disillusioned in the Communist ideas, because he could see from the documents that he had at his disposal, in view of his positions and the people he met that there were great dangers for the world at large, and of course he went

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out for the first time to Turkey as assistant military attache; this was the first time he had left the Soviet Union. All these things contributed to extra knowledge of his, which he hadn't had before, I'm sorry I haven't got more time to..."

DOWNS: "No, it's a fascinating subject, and, of course, we -- the fascination is all in the book, and we'll continue. I'm going to interrupt us now for just a moment. We'll come back with our guests in a moment."

* * *

DOWNS: "Back with our guest, Greville Wynne, a British subject the link between a man named Penkovskiy, a Russian who was executed in 1963 for espionage, and if what this book says is true, is an extremely important person, in spy circles. Mr. Wynne was explaining about Colonel Penkovskiy's -- not defection, that's not quite the word, because he never did really defect, but he certainly, as a spy, contributed things to the West, and my question was, why did he do this when he was so highly placed in Soviet intelligence circles? And you were about to explain about some of his later activities that accounted for this."

WYNNE: "Yes, I did explain before the interruption that -- I shouldn't say interruption, should I?"

DOWNS: "No, we call it ads."

WYNNE: "Yes, he reached great heights, marrying the general's daughter, or becoming equal to a marshal; the marshal is very important because he controls the whole of the rocket systems, and the placing of them.

"But he went out of his country for the first time and became military assistant attache in Turkey. Now, Turkey wasn't in the early 1950's a particularly good example, because like all other countries after the war it was short of things, but it was an immense contrast to that of Gorky Street and other places in the Soviet Union, and Penkovskiy was able to see in the year he spent in Turkey the freedom in the streets and the cafes. He was able to see varieties of consumer goods in the shops; the way people acted and talked. He met certain people there, and he had a place in freedom for the first time. Then when he went back into the Soviet Union, he was able to have access to these files. He became more friendly with the chief of intelligence, Serov, and other people, and from these things he was able to know exactly what the intentions, and what the plannings that were taking place within the Communist Party, and within the American people's minds, and you know, Penkovskiy was not the only one. I used the phrase some time ago that he was the top of the iceberg. There was a lot more, I believe ..."

DOWNS: "Is it possible do you think, or unusual for a man to be brought up as an esthete in Communist ideology and yet to be so thoroughly disillusioned at things?"

WYNNE: "No, Penkovskiy's not the only one. I repeat, you've only heard about the top of the iceberg. There was a lot more, I believe ..."

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this man if he still operated. There are others, many defectors who have taken place and they are living in your country and in mine at this present day.

"Since I have been back, other people have come over."

DOWNS: "An important question in connection with that, sir: usually the world of espionage is so set up that it's difficult to -- publicity is not something desirable there apparently. In this case, if as the book claims, Penkovskiy was instrumental in supplying information that allowed us to face down the Russians on two crucial points. I'm speaking of the Berlin crisis and the Cuban missile crisis. What is serving your mind by -- is his cause furthered by publicizing this, or would it best be left unsaid."

WYNNE: "I think if it was up to the CIA, and British intelligence, frankly, the book wouldn't come out."

DOWNS: "What purpose is served in your mind?"

WYNNE: "By publishing?"

DOWNS: "By publishing."

WYNNE: "Well, I think the people of the United States, my own country and the rest of the free world, should know what were in these people's minds. The Communist system is a frightful system. Like a cancer that creeps. It crawls, it creeps, it gets everywhere. It stirs up trouble everywhere. It doesn't help the world, and these things should be known about. Told by the man who was brought up under the system and way it for himself, knew what is going to happen. I repeat once more that this man saved us from war. There is no question about that; it is one of the facts that I know."

DOWNS: "What made you trust him when you first met him? Since you were the first link between him and the West. Why did you not think he might be in counter-espionage, rather than a spy?"

WYNNE: "Penkovskiy, before I made contact with him had made two approaches to the West. One to a Canadian delegation as I'm told, and you know he made contact with your own people, and he was turned down. Now I had been going to the Soviet Union since 1956, previous to that I had been five times to the Soviet Union before I made contact with Penkovskiy, and having made contact with him in December, 1960, I spent some three weeks with him. I was with him nearly every day. I had time to study this man. He, also had time to study me. In fact he says so in this book. But the approach had to come from Penkovskiy, and I waited. The first part of December we talked. We got friendly. We became on Christian name basis, and I left, but I had made arrangements to go back there as soon as possible in March, 1961. This time I spent a further five days with him. We had time to study one another, and this time he took me for walks around the streets of Moscow in the evenings, away from people, and we talked on very sensitive matters. We got to trust one another

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and we discussed certain factors, and because of his attitude and because of the things he talked about, I understood. I believed and trusted this man. I had had time to study him."

DOWNES: "This is fascinating and we could have spent a great deal more time. Our guest Greville Wynne, who, at the request of the publisher, came over to talk about this book which certainly will cause a great deal of controversy, 'The Penkovskiy Papers', coming out this week. And I want to thank you, Mr. Wynne, for being here. The time now is up."